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Director

STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



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Summer Internship with Washington State Parks and the United States Forest Service

The Mount St. Helens Visitor Center is seeking to recruit an Interpretive Naturalist Intern (Volunteer) to help staff the Information Desk and assist with nature-based educational programming offered to the public (self-guided, in-person and virtual) this summer. Unpaid opportunity, a monthly stipend of \$725 available to offset cost of travel. Course Credit can be earned. Apartment style/shared housing might be available.

Position: part time, 24-32 hours/week. Must be available on weekends.

Timeframe: June – early September (start and end date flexible)

About the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center/surrounding area:

The Mount St. Helens Visitor Center is located in Castle Rock, situated in the second-growth forest of Seaquest State Park in Southwest Washington. We are a historical based facility undergoing exhibit renovations to update our extensive displays, with a new feature film, and a ½ mile boardwalk trail along the Silver Lake wetland ecosystem. We have historically been open year-round, receiving over 50,000 visitors in the peak season- and we will resume normal operating hours Summer 2022. We are five miles from the interstate, located on the Spirit Lake Highway, about 50 miles from Mount St. Helens.

We are partnered with the United States Forest Service, who manages the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, approximately 110,000 acres of protected land. Their visitor center is 47 miles east of this location, approximately a 1-hour drive. They operate the Johnston Ridge Observatory; offering tremendous views 5 miles from the volcano, an extensive trail system and exhibits focused on the geology of the mountain. Their destination is known world-wide and highly popular during the summer season.

The nearest large city is Portland, Oregon, approximately 63 miles away. In closer proximity is the Longview/Kelso townships with all desirable access to necessities like grocery, retail, parks and libraries. For additional information please visit our webpage: <http://parks.state.wa.us/245/Mount-St-Helens>

Agency Mission:

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cares for Washington's most treasured lands, waters, and historic places. State parks connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives.

Agency Vision:

Washington's state parks will be cherished destinations with natural, cultural, recreational, artistic, and interpretive experiences that all Washingtonians enjoy, appreciate, and proudly support.

Internship description:

Washington State Parks invites submissions for an Interpretive Naturalist Internship beginning Summer 2022. This individual will receive hands-on experience in the field of interpretation at two popular Visitor Centers, while assisting staff with daily operations, educational programming, and customer service.

(50%): Assist at the front desk: welcoming visitors, disseminating information about the local area, directions to nearby attractions, recreational recommendations, and answering questions about Mount St. Helens.

(30%): Assist with educational programming (self-guided, in-person, virtual): could include informal short talks in the plaza using pre-structured materials, evening campground lessons, guided walks, scheduled school/tour groups, and the Junior Ranger program.

(20%): Research, design and develop a family friendly program to offer with guidance from supporting staff.

NOTE: **This position is stationed at the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center (Washington State Parks) 16-24 hours/week with visits to the Johnston Ridge Observatory (United States Forest Service) 8 hours/week.*

Required Qualifications:

- Must be a recent graduate or currently enrolled in a local college and completing a degree in Natural Resource Sciences/Geology/Ecology/History or a related field.
- Good customer service skills and the ability to speak clearly to large groups of varying age and ethnicity.
- Ability to communicate with fellow staff, and follow guidance
- Must have a valid driver's license and the ability to provide their own transportation. May be asked to drive park vehicle between parks.

Desirable qualifications:

- Interest in interpretation or teaching and expanding communication skills
- Has the ability to meet visitor needs efficiently and effectively in a busy Visitor Center
- Positive attitude and ability to work well with others; being a team player
- Good organizational skills and follow-through
- Being a self-starter
- Open to sharing ideas and accepting possible peer-review and input
- Ability to use Microsoft Office and/or PowerPoint and familiarity with digital platforms
- Comfortable and confident using a computer, camera/tripod, and basic office equipment
- Arrive on time daily and perform duties in a timely manner
- Willingness to work a flexible schedule as needed, required to work most weekends

→Applying:

To apply please email a detailed resume, cover letter describing your interest in this internship opportunity, and three references to Silver.Lake@parks.wa.gov no later than **Saturday April 23, 2022**. Please type "Summer 2022 Internship" into the email subject line. If selected for the internship you will be sent a volunteer application to complete. This includes criminal background checks completed through fingerprints, per state law. Candidate will be notified by the end of April. Internship will begin in June, start date is negotiable.

If you have any further questions please contact: Alysa Adams, Parks Interpretive Specialist 2 at: 360-274-0962 (Visitor Center), 360-644-4704 (work cell) or email at Alysa.Adams@parks.wa.gov. Application materials will be reviewed, and selected candidates will be contacted in a timely manner.

***Thank You for your interest in volunteering with Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission!
We look forward to hearing from you!***